

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1

COUNTRY USSR (Mary Oblast)

SUBJECT Meteorological, Medical, and Geographical Data on Kushka

REPORT

DATE DISTR. 11 June 1954

NO. OF PAGES 3

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI	#	AEC				
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COUNTRY USSR (Mary Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 17 May 1954

SUBJECT Meteorological, Medical, and
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NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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1. The physical and geographical conditions of the Southern Mary Oblast affected the troops adversely only during the summer months, and then those troops affected were ones who had just arrived. All troops, regardless of origin, seemed to acclimate themselves readily to the oppressive and muggy summer heat and the penetrating summer sun. Although the summer weather was uncomfortable, it had no great affect on the efficiency of the men. The mugginess persisted throughout the year but was not detrimental to the troops.
2. [redacted] physical and geographical conditions in the rest of Turkmenistan were the same as those found in the Southern Mary Oblast. The natives tended to concentrate their settlements along river and stream banks. Beyond the populated areas one could ride for days without seeing a single human being. 25X1
3. In winter, the temperature in Kushka [N 35-16, E 62-24] ranged from 10 degrees to 20 degrees centigrade. In spring, it went as high as 30 degrees centigrade, and in summer, it remained at 50-60 degrees centigrade. 25X1
4. From April to October, the skies were cloudless and the rays of the sun were hot and penetrating. From November to December there was an average total of three days scattered rainfall. From February to April the entire countryside was in bloom. Shortly after April, all forms of vegetation were scorched dry.
5. [redacted] in Kushka. [redacted] At no time did the temperature fall lower than 10 degrees centigrade. 25X1

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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6. Troops in the Kushka area were issued overcoats, but since the winter weather was not severe and there were no sudden temperature drops, the coats were never worn.
 7. The troops in Kushka were issued tropical uniforms consisting of a straw Panama-type hat, a linen blouse with wide loose cuffs and airholes under the armpits, linen breeches, summer underwear, summer footwraps and standard issue boots. The men always carried canteens. On training problems, units had water in large plastic bags as well as in trailers. In garrison, there were several water tanks and showers to provide relief from the heat for the troops. Salt tablets were not used; the use of salt as a protective measure was not encouraged.
 8. New arrivals were given first aid training in heat exhaustion and sunstroke. [redacted] several cases of sunstroke. The victims were placed in a shady area, their clothing was loosened and their faces bathed with water. After treatment, they were allowed to rest. Those who had sunstroke soon acclimated themselves [redacted] no one [redacted] was evacuated either for sunstroke or for heat exhaustion. 25X1
 9. Malaria, intestinal virus, diarrhea, and appendicitis were prevalent among men stationed in the Kushka area. In addition, there was a local disease known as "pindinka". It was caused by a parasite which burrowed into the skin and left splotches about the size of a half-dollar. The splotches persisted anywhere from a month to five years. The skin was left with ugly scars or holes. [redacted] several soldiers suffering from this disease. 25X1
 10. Troops were inoculated against tetanus, typhus, and dysentery. Inoculations were administered annually. They were given in a combined form. [redacted] two or three inoculations were given each time. 25X1
 11. There were no special quarantine measures employed on the Afghanistan-Soviet border.
 12. Selection of men for the Border Guard Troops was on a political rather than physical basis. [redacted] 25X1
 13. No psychiatric care was practiced among MVD troops.
 14. Sulfa drugs and antibiotics were available in sufficient quantities in the medical sections of military units for use in the treatment of infectious diseases. [redacted] 25X1
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